(b) the amount of royalty received by Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra during last three years; and

(c) the amount likely to be received by these States against coal royalty by the end of the current year?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) The proviso to Section 9(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 provides that the Central Government shall not enhance the rate of royalty in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of three years. The royalty rates on coal were last enhanced on 16.8.2002. Thus the next enhancement in the royalty on coal can be considered only after 15.8.2005.

(b) The amount of royalty on coal received by Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Maharasthra during the last 3 years are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

State	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Madhya Pradesh	688.10	574.95	390.88
Chhattisgarh	—	139.07	348.34
Maharashtra	183.13	220.79	229.45

(c) The amount likely to be received by these States against coal royalty during the current year *i.e.* 2002-03 are provisionally as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

Madhya Pradesh	Maharashtra	Chhattisgarh
380	254	410

Extinguishing fire at Jharia Coalfield

†769. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the measures being taken to extinguish the fire broken out in Jharia Coalfield; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the number of incidents took place while mining coal in an unauthorised manner during the last one year in BCCL alongwith the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) The measures taken/being taken by BCCL to extinguish fire in Jharia Coalfields are as under:

(i) BCCL inherited 70 active fires at the time of nationalisation during 1976-1988, 22 fire projects were taken up with available technologies and 10 fires could be extinguished.

(ii) Four schemes for fire and subsidence control under Environmental Measures and Subsidence Control (EMSC) scheme have been taken up at Alkusha, South Lodna Industry and Rajajur collieries and all these schemes are under implementation.

Two more schemes taken up under Rehabilitation and Control of Fire and Subsidence (RCFS) scheme viz; protection of Adra-Gomoh rail line at Block-II/Phularitand collieries and protection of Chatkarijore at Jeenagora/Bararee collieries are under implementation.

(iii) Stabilisation work at 5 places have been completed under EMSC/ RCFS.

(iv) The following steps are being taken by BCCL to extinguish fire depending upon conditions:

— Quenching of spot fire and mining out the quenched coal.

— Blanketing surface and surface sealing for filling of cracks.

— Sand flushing/pumping inert gas into active fire zone from surface to underground *via* boreholes.

— Trenching

— Water pooling

— Prompt sealing of affected panel in the mine

— Plastering and/or coating of stoppings with sealant

— Equipping fire stations with fire fighting equipment

(b) BCCL is not mining coal in unauthorized manner in any of its mine. No incident of new mine fire took place during the last one year.

Import of coal

†770. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coal was imported in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the quantity of coal imported in the country during 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 separately;

(c) whether the need for import of coal arose due to non-fulfilment of demand of coal from indigenous production; and

(d) if not, the facts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The quantity of coal imported in the country during the last three years is as under:

(Quantity in Million tonnes)

Year	Coking	Non-coking	Total
1999-2000	10.99	8.71	19.70
2000-2001	11.06	9.87	20.93
2001-2002	11.11	9.44	20.55

(c) and (d) Consumers are importing coal, particularly coking coal and superior quality of non-coking coal, on account of inadequate availability of such coals from indigenous sources. Import of coal is also resorted to because the present level of customs duty and railway freight structure make such imports cost competitive per unit of calorific value on certain locations.

Some consumers like cement plants and thermal power stations located near the coastal regions resort to coal import mainly on account

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.